

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01493 030755Z

ACTION EA-12

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R 080629Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US CUSTOMS HQS WASHDC

DEA HQS WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 9984

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NOFORN

POSTS PASS DEA FROM SAIC BROWN

DEA HQS PASS EVANS/EN, DOYLE/ENOF, FINK/IG

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: GFWA-76-8006 SINGAPORE

1. RUMORS CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT THE SINGAPORE ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY DURING MARCH INDICATED THAT CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB) DIRECTOR JOHN HANAM WOULD BE REMOVED. THESE RUMORS HAD BEEN THE STRONGEST EVER, AND SPECIFIED HIS SUCCUSSOR AND EVEN THE PROBABLE DATE OF TRANSFER.

2. ON 4/1/78 HANAM WAS TRANSFERED BACK TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT. THERE HIS DUTIES INCLUDE MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF CUSTOMS BONDED WAREHOUSES,

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THE CONTAINER PORT, AS WELL AS INSURING THAT PROPER LICENSES ARE OBTAINED BY ENTERTAINMENT CLUBS AND MOVIE THEATERS.

3. HANAM ATTRIBUTES HIS TRANSFER TO THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND SPECIFICALLY TO PERMANENT SECRETARY LUM CHOONG WAH. LUM HAD REMARKED THAT HANAM WAS NOT

SUPPORTING MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR'S POLICIES, AND NOTED PRIVATELY LAST WEEK THAT HANAM WAS "CONTINUOUSLY PILING UP DEMERIT POINTS."

4. THE FINAL SPLIT CAME IN FEBRUARY AT A MEETING ATTENDED BY ALL ENFORCEMENT HEADS AND CHAIRED BY CHUA SIAN CHIN THE MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. IN REPLY TO THE MINISTER'S QUESTION OF WHY MORE OPERATION FERRET ARRESTS WERE NOT BEING MADE AND WHERE WAS CNB INTELLIGENCE ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF ADDICTS, HANAM REPORTED THAT SOME WERE IN CHURCH WHILE OTHERS HAD STAYED HOME. HANAM'S ANSWER INFURIATED CHUA WHO TOLD HIM HE WANTED TO HEAR NO FURTHER FROM HIM (HANAM).

5. HANAM HAD NOT BEEN POPULAR WITHIN THE GOS BUREAU-CRACY, AND WAS DESCRIBED BY A ONE TIME CLOSE ASSOCIATE AS A MOODY UNPREDICTABLE MAN WHO HOLDS VERY STRONG PERSONAL VIEWS AND WHO WILL BROOK NO OTHER OUTLOOK THAN HIS OWN. HANAM HAS A NOTED DISLIKE FOR EUROPEANS AND PARTICULARLY FOR AMERICANS.

6. HANAM WAS FAMOUS AS CNB DIRECTOR AT THE ART OF MAKING ENEMIES, ESPECIALLY OF THOSE WHO WERE CLOSE TO HIM. AS A RESULT, CNB RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WERE POOR, AND CONSEQUENTLY CNB FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND HOME AFFAIRS
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MINISTRIES.

7. THE NEW DIRECTOR WAS APPOINTED FROM THE POLICE, AND HOLDS THE RANK OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER. AT 35 YEARS OLD, TEE TUA BA HAS ADVANCED RAPIDLY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. HIS SECONDMEN TO CNB IS FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD AT WHICH TIME HE WILL RETURN TO THE POLICE. TEE HAS BEEN TOLD HIS CHANCES OF BEING NAMED TO THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE POSITION ARE EXCELLENT AFTER HIS ATTACHMENT TO THE CNB. THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PLAN IS TO PROMOTE POH GEOK EK (THE PRESENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CNB) TO THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION.

8. IT WAS SUGGESTED IN ONE BRIEFING PAPER PREPARED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR POH THAT ONE OF TEE'S FIRST DUTIES IS TO REBUILD CNB RELATIONS WITH OTHER NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, ESPACIALLY WITH DEA.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT BY DEA ONLY.
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